

# homotopy theory

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## abstract nonsense

### definition.

- An *initial object* in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is an object  $\emptyset$  such that for any object  $x \in \mathcal{C}$  there is a unique morphism  $\emptyset \rightarrow x$  with source  $\emptyset$  and target  $x$ .
- For  $\mathcal{C}$  any category, its *arrow category*  $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$  is the category such that
  - an object  $a$  of  $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$  is a morphism  $a : a_0 \rightarrow a_1$  of  $\mathcal{C}$ ,
  - a morphism  $f : a \rightarrow b$  of  $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$  is a commutative square

$$\begin{array}{ccc} a_0 & \xrightarrow{f_0} & b_0 \\ a \downarrow & & \downarrow b \\ a_1 & \xrightarrow{f_1} & b_1 \end{array}$$

in  $\mathcal{C}$ ,

- composition in  $\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C})$  is given simply by placing commutative squares side by side to get a commutative oblong.

This is isomorphic to the functor category

$$\text{Arr}(\mathcal{C}) := \text{Func}(\mathbf{I}, \mathcal{C}) = [\mathbf{I}, \mathcal{C}] = \mathcal{C}^{\mathbf{I}}$$

for  $\mathbf{I}$  the interval category  $\{0 \rightarrow 1\}$ .

- An *equalizer* is a limit

$$\text{eq} \xrightarrow{e} X \rightrightarrows^f_g Y$$

over a parallel pair of morphisms  $f$  and  $g$ . This means that for  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  and  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  in a category  $\mathcal{C}$ , their equalizer, if it exists, is

- an object  $\text{eq}(f, g) \in \mathcal{C}$ ,
- a morphism  $\text{eq}(f, g) \rightarrow X$
- such that
  - \* pulled back to  $\text{eq}(f, g)$  both morphisms become equal:

$$\text{eq}(f, g) \longrightarrow X \xrightarrow{f} Y = [\text{eq}(f, g) \longrightarrow X \xrightarrow{g} Y]$$

- \* and  $\text{eq}(f, g)$  is the universal object with this property.

The dual concept is that of coequalizer.

- The concept of coequalizer in a general category is the generalization of the construction where out of two functions  $f$  and  $g$  between sets  $X$  and  $Y$  one forms the set  $Y / \sim$  of equivalence classes induced by the equivalence relation  $f(x) \sim g(y)$ . This means the the quotient function  $p : Y \rightarrow Y / \sim$  satisfies

$$p \circ f = p \circ g.$$

In some category  $\mathcal{C}$ , the *coequalizer*  $\text{coeq}(f, g)$  of two parallel morphisms  $f$  and  $g$  between two objects  $X$  and  $Y$ , if it exists, is the colimit under the diagram formed by these two morphisms

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{f} \\ \xrightarrow{g} \end{array} & Y \\ & \searrow \quad \swarrow & \\ & \text{coeq}(f, g) & \end{array}$$

Equivalently, in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  a diagram

$$X \rightrightarrows^f_g Y \xrightarrow{p} Z$$

is called a *coequalizer* diagram if

1.  $p \circ f = p \circ g$ ,

2.  $p$  is universal for this property: if  $q : Y \rightarrow W$  is a morphism of  $\mathcal{C}$  such that  $q \circ f = q \circ g$ , then there is a unique morphism  $\phi : Z \rightarrow W$  such that  $\phi \circ p = q$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X & \xrightleftharpoons[g]{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{p} & Z \\ & & \downarrow q & \swarrow \phi & \\ & & W & & \end{array}$$

The coequalizer in  $\mathcal{C}$  is equivalently an equalizer in the opposite category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ .

- A **pullback** of the morphisms  $f$  and  $g$  consists of an object  $P$  and two morphisms  $p_1 : P \rightarrow X$  and  $p_2 : P \rightarrow Y$  satisfying the following universal property:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Q & & & & \\ & \searrow \phi & & \nearrow q_2 & \\ & P & \xrightarrow{p_2} & Y & \\ & \downarrow p_1 & \lrcorner & \downarrow g & \\ & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Z & \end{array}$$

- A **pushout** of the morphisms  $f$  and  $g$  consists of an object  $P$  and two morphisms  $i_1 : X \rightarrow P$  and  $i_2 : Y \rightarrow P$  satisfying the following universal property:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Z & \xrightarrow{g} & Y & & \\ f \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow i_2 & \searrow j_2 & \\ X & \xrightarrow{i_1} & P & \xrightarrow{\phi} & Q \\ & \searrow j_1 & & & \end{array}$$

**remark.** Other names for the pushout are *cofibered product of  $X$  and  $Y$*  (especially in algebraic categories when  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  are monomorphisms), or *free product of  $X$  and  $Y$  with  $Z$*  *amalgamated sum*, or more simply an *amalgamation* or *amalgarm of  $X$  and  $Y$* .

**remark.** If coproducts exist in some category, then the pushout

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \\ f \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow i_2 \\ X & \xrightarrow{i_1} & X \amalg_Z Y \end{array}$$

is equivalently the coequalizer

$$X \xrightleftharpoons[i_2 \circ g]{i_1 \circ f} X \amalg Y \longrightarrow X \amalg_Z Y$$

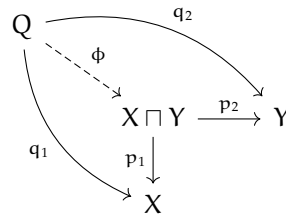
of the two morphisms induced by  $f$  and  $g$  into the coproduct of  $X$  with  $Y$ .

**example (wiki).**

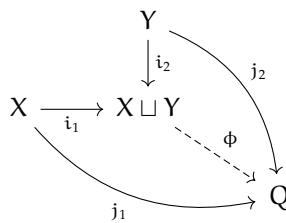
- If  $X$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  are sets and  $f, g$  are functions, the pushout of  $f$  and  $g$  is the disjoint union of  $X$  and  $Y$  where elements sharing a common preimage in  $Z$  are identified, i.e.  $P = (X \sqcup Y) / \sim$  where  $\sim$  is the finest equivalence relation such that  $f(z) \sim g(z)$  for all  $z \in Z$ .

In particular, if  $X$  and  $Y$  are subsets of some larger set  $W$  and  $Z$  is their intersection, with  $f$  and  $g$  the inclusion maps of  $Z$  into  $X$  and  $Y$ , then the pushout can be canonically identified with the union  $X \cup Y \subseteq W$ .

- The construction of *adjunction spaces* is an example of pushouts in  $\text{Top}$ . More precisely, if  $Z$  is a subspace of  $Y$  and  $g : Z \rightarrow Y$  is the inclusion map, we can glue  $Y$  to another space  $X$  along  $Z$  using an *attaching map*  $f : Z \rightarrow X$ . The result is the *adjunction space*  $X \cup_f Y$  which is just the pushout of  $f$  and  $g$ . More generally, all identification spaces may be regarded as pushouts in this way. See ?? .
- A **product** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is an object  $X \sqcap Y$  and a pair of morphisms  $p_1 : X \sqcap Y \rightarrow X$ ,  $p_2 : X \sqcap Y \rightarrow Y$  satisfying the following universal property:



- A **coproduct** of  $X$  and  $Y$  is an object  $X \sqcup Y$  and a pair of morphisms  $i_1 : X \rightarrow X \sqcup Y$ ,  $i_2 : Y \rightarrow X \sqcup Y$  satisfying the following universal property:



**remark.** More generally, for  $S$  any set and  $F : S \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  a collection of objects in  $\mathcal{C}$  indexed by  $S$ , their **coproduct** is an object

$$\coprod_{s \in S} F(s)$$

equipped with maps

$$F(s) \rightarrow \coprod_{s \in S} F(s)$$

such that this is universal among objects with maps from  $F(s)$ .

- A morphism  $i$  has the *left lifting property with respect to a morphism*  $p$  and  $p$  has the *right lifting property with respect to*  $i$  if for each morphisms  $f$  and  $g$ , if the outer square in the following diagram commutes, there exists  $\phi$  (I think not necessarily unique) completing the diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & X \\ i \downarrow & \nearrow \phi & \downarrow p \\ B & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \end{array}$$

- The *kernel* of a morphism is that part of its domain which is sent to zero. Formally, in a category with an initial object  $0$  and pullbacks, the *kernel*  $\ker f$  of a morphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is the pullback  $\ker(f) \rightarrow A$  along  $f$  of the unique morphism  $0 \rightarrow B$

More explicitly, this characterizes the object  $\ker(f)$  as *the* object (unique up to isomorphism) that satisfies the following universal property:

for every object  $C$  and every morphism  $h : C \rightarrow A$  such that  $f \circ h = 0$  is the zero morphism, there is a unique morphism  $\phi : C \rightarrow \ker(f)$  such that  $h = p \circ \phi$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} C & & & & \\ & \searrow \phi & & & \\ & \ker(f) & \longrightarrow & 0 & \\ & \downarrow & & \downarrow & \\ & A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \\ & \uparrow h & & & \end{array}$$

- In a category with a terminal object  $1$ , the *cokernel* of a morphism  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is the pushout (arrows  $h$  and  $\phi$  apply if terminal object is zero)

$$\text{coker}(f) := 1 \sqcup_A B$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & & \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow & \searrow h & \\ 1 & \longrightarrow & \text{coker}(f) & & \\ & & & \searrow \phi & \\ & & & & C \end{array}$$

In the case when the terminal object is in fact zero object, one can, more explicitly, characterize the object  $\text{coker}(f)$  with the following universal property:

for every object  $C$  and every morphism  $h : B \rightarrow C$  such that  $h \circ f = 0$  is the zero morphism, there is a unique morphism  $\phi : \text{coker}(f) \rightarrow C$  such that  $h = \phi \circ i$ .

- A morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a **monomorphism** if for every object  $Z$  and every pair of morphisms  $g_1, g_2 : Z \rightarrow X$  then

$$f \circ g_1 = f \circ g_2 \implies g_1 = g_2.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & f \circ g_1 & & \\ & \nearrow & & \searrow & \\ Z & \xrightarrow{g_1} & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \\ & \nwarrow & & \swarrow & \\ & & f \circ g_2 & & \end{array}$$

Equivalently,  $f$  is a monomorphism if for every  $Z$  the hom-functor  $\text{Hom}(Z, -)$  takes it to an injective function

$$\text{Hom}(Z, X) \xrightarrow{f_*} \text{Hom}(Z, Y).$$

Being a monomorphism in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  means equivalently that it is an epimorphism in the opposite category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ .

- A morphism  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a **epimorphism** if for every object  $Z$  and every pair of morphisms  $g_1, g_2 : Y \rightarrow Z$  then

$$g_1 \circ f = g_2 \circ f \implies g_1 = g_2.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} & & g_1 \circ f & & \\ & \nearrow & & \searrow & \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y & \xrightarrow{g_1} & Z \\ & \nwarrow & & \swarrow & \\ & & g_2 \circ f & & \end{array}$$

Equivalently,  $f$  is a epimorphism if for every  $Z$  the hom-functor  $\text{Hom}(-, Z)$  takes it to an injective function

$$\text{Hom}(Y, Z) \xrightarrow{f^*} \text{Hom}(X, Z).$$

Being a monomorphism in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  means equivalently that it is an monomorphism in the opposite category  $\mathcal{C}^{\text{op}}$ .

## elementary concepts

### definition.

- Let  $X$  and  $Y$  be topological spaces and  $f, g : X \rightarrow Y$  continuous maps. An **homotopy** from  $f$  to  $g$  is a continuous map

$$H : X \times [0, 1] \rightarrow Y, \quad (x, t) \mapsto H(x, t) = H_t(x)$$

) such that  $f(x) = H(x, 0)$  and  $g(x) = H(x, 1)$  for all  $x \in X$ . We denote this situation by  $f \simeq g$ . The homotopy relation  $\simeq$  is an equivalence relation on the set of continuous maps  $X \rightarrow Y$ . A homotopy of maps  $H_t : X \rightarrow Y$  is called **relative to**  $A \subset X$  if  $H_t|_A$  is constant.

- Topological spaces and homotopy classes of maps form a quotient category of  $\text{Top}$ , the **homotopy category**  $\text{h-Top}$ , where composition of homotopy classes is induced by composition of representing maps. If  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  represents an isomorphism in  $\text{h-Top}$ , then  $f$  is called a **homotopy equivalence** or **h-equivalence**. In explicit terms this means  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is a homotopy equivalence if there exists  $g : Y \rightarrow X$ , a **homotopy inverse of**  $f$ , such that  $gf$  and  $fg$  are both homotopic to the identity. Spaces  $X$  and  $Y$  are called **homotopy equivalent** or of the same **homotopy type** if there exists a homotopy equivalence  $X \rightarrow Y$ . A space is **contractible** if it is homotopy equivalent to a point. A map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  is **null homotopic** if it is homotopic to a constant map.
- Let  $(X, x_0)$  be a pointed topological space and  $s_0 \in S^n$ . The elements of the  **$n$ -th homotopy group** are homotopy classes of maps  $(S^n, s_0) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$ . Equivalently, they are homotopy classes of maps  $(I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (X, x_0)$ . (Homotopies are required to preserve the base points,  $s_0 \mapsto x_0$  or  $\partial I^n \mapsto x_0$ .)

Also,

$$\pi_n(X, *) = [(I^n, \partial I^n), (X, \{*\})] \cong [I^n / \partial I^n, X]^0$$

where  $[X, Y]$  denotes the set of homotopy classes  $[f]$  of maps  $[f] : X \rightarrow Y$ .

**proposition 1.**  $\pi_n(X, x_0)$  is an abelian group for all  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ .

- Let  $A$  be a subspace of  $X$  and  $x_0 \in A$ . The elements of the **relative homotopy group**  $\pi_n(X, A, x_0)$  are homotopy classes of maps  $(I^n, \partial I^n, J^{n-1}) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$  where  $J^{n-1}$  is the union of all but one face of  $I^n$ . That is,

$$\pi_{n+1}(X, A, *) = [(I^{n+1}, \partial I^{n+1}, J^n), (X, A, x_0)].$$

The elements of such a group are homotopy classes of based maps  $D^n \rightarrow X$  which carry the boundary  $S^{n-1}$  into  $A$ . Two maps  $f, g$  are called **homotopic relative to**  $A$  if they are homotopic by a basepoint-preserving homotopy  $F : D_n \times [0, 1] \rightarrow X$  such that, for each  $p$  in  $S^{n-1}$  and  $t$  in  $[0, 1]$ , the element  $F(p, t)$  is in  $A$ . Ordinary homotopy groups are recovered for the case in which  $A = \{x_0\}$ .

**remark.** This construction is motivated by looking for the kernel of the induced map  $i_* : \pi_n(A, x_0) \rightarrow \pi_n(X, x_0)$  by the inclusion. This map is in general not injective, and the kernel consists of ?

- For any pair  $(X, A, x)$  we have a long exact sequence

$$\pi_n(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{i_*} \pi_n(X, x_0) \xrightarrow{j_*} \pi_{n-1}(A, x_0) \xrightarrow{\partial} \pi_{n-1}(X, x_0) \rightarrow \cdots \rightarrow \pi_0(X, x_0)$$

where  $i$  and  $j$  are the inclusions  $(A, x_0) \hookrightarrow (X, x_0)$  and  $(X, x_0, x_0) \hookrightarrow (X, A, x_0)$ . The map  $\partial$  comes from restricting maps  $(I^n, \partial I^n, J^{n-1}) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$  to  $I^{n-1}$ , or by restricting maps  $(D^n, S^{n-1}, s_0) \rightarrow (X, A, x_0)$ . The map, called the **boundary map**, is a homomorphism when  $n > 1$ .

- A space  $X$  with basepoint  $x_0$  is called  **$n$ -connected** if  $\pi_i(X, x_0) = 0$  for  $i \leq n$ . Thus 0-connected means path-connected and 1 connected means simply-connected.
- A pair  $(X, A)$  is  **$n$ -connected** if  $\pi_i(X, A, x_0) = 0$  for  $i \leq n$ .
- Two pointed spaces  $(X, x_0)$  and  $(Y, y_0)$  are  **$n$ -equivalent** if  $\pi_i(X, x_0) \cong \pi_i(Y, y_0)$  for all  $i \leq n$ .

## the right category

- We don't care so much about Top. We care much more about CGWH, the full subcategory of Top on **compactly generated weakly Hausdorff** spaces.
- $X$  is **compactly generated** if, for any subset  $C \subset X$ , and for all continuous maps  $f : K \rightarrow X$  from compact Hausdorff spaces,

if  $f^{-1}(C)$  is closed in  $K$ , then  $C$  is closed.

**claim (What I picked up from the lecture).** If  $X$  is compactly generated, then  $X$  is weakly Hausdorff if the diagonal subset  $\Delta_X \subset X \times X$  is **k-closed**.

From **May**: The ordinary category of spaces allows pathology that obstructs a clean development of the foundations. The homotopy and homology groups of spaces are supported on compact subspaces, and it turns out that if one assumes a separation property that is a little weaker than the Hausdorff property, then one can refine the point-set topology of spaces to eliminate such pathology without changing these invariants.

One major source of point-set level pathology can be passage to quotient spaces. Use of compactly generated topologies alleviates this.

**proposition 2.** If  $X$  is compactly generated and  $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$  is a quotient map, then  $Y$  is compactly generated if and only if  $(\pi \times \pi)^{-1}(\Delta_Y)$  is closed in  $X \times X$

The interpretation is that a quotient space of a compactly generated space by a "closed equivalence relation" is compactly generated.

Several other propositions follow in **May**. Now some other notes from the lectures:

In CGWH,  $\text{Hom}(X, Y)$  is a space with the compact-open topology. **This is a com-**



pactly generated space,  $k(\text{Hom}(X, Y))$ .

$\text{Map}(X, Y) :=$  the space of maps  $X \rightarrow Y$ .

$$\text{Map}(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Map}(X, \text{Map}(Y, Z))$$

$$\text{Hom}(X \times Y, Z) \cong \text{Hom}(X, \text{Map}(Y, Z))$$

In the last line, product is product in CGWH, not in  $\text{Top}$ .

The functor  $- \times Y$  is left adjoint to  $\text{Map}(Y, -)$ .

## cofibrations

- A *homotopy*  $X \times I \rightarrow Y$  is the same as a map  $X \rightarrow \text{Map}(I, Y)$ .
- A map  $A \rightarrow X$  is a *Hurewicz cofibration* for any  $g : X \rightarrow Y$  and any homotopy  $H : A \times I \rightarrow Y$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times \{0\} & \longrightarrow & A \times I \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \end{array}$$

there is  $H : X \times I \rightarrow Y$ ,

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times \{0\} & \longrightarrow & A \times I \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow \\ X \times I & \xrightarrow{H'} & Y \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A \times I & & \\ \downarrow & \searrow H & \\ X \times I & \xrightarrow{H'} & Y \end{array}$$

**example.**  $\partial D^n \rightarrow D^n$  is a Hurewicz cofibration. **Why?**

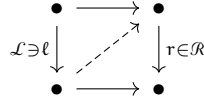
## model structures

**definition (Riehl).** A *weak factorization system*  $(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{R})$  on a category  $\mathcal{M}$  is comprised of two classes of morphisms  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  so that

1. Every morphism in  $\mathcal{M}$  may be factored as a morphism in  $\mathcal{L}$  followed by a morphism in  $\mathcal{R}$ :

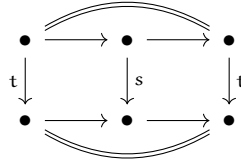
$$\begin{array}{ccc} \bullet & \xrightarrow{f} & \bullet \\ & \searrow \mathcal{L} \ni \ell & \nearrow \mathcal{R} \ni r \\ & \bullet & \end{array}$$

2. The maps in  $\mathcal{L}$  have the **left lifting property** with respect to each map in  $\mathcal{R}$  and equivalently the maps in  $\mathcal{R}$  have the **right lifting property** with respect to each map in  $\mathcal{L}$ , that is, any commutative square



admits a diagonal filler as indicated making both triangles commute.

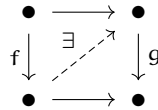
3. The classes  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$  are each closed under retracts in the arrow category: given a commutative diagram



if  $s$  is in that class then so is its retract  $t$ .

**definition (Lecture).** A **model structure** on a category  $\mathcal{A}$  is a choice of subcategories  $\mathcal{W}, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{F}$  called **weak-equivalences**, **cofibrations** and **fibrations** with the following properties:

1. Given  $\bullet \xrightarrow{f} \bullet \xrightarrow{g} \bullet$ , if either 2 out of 3 among  $f, g, f \circ g$  are in  $\mathcal{W}$  then all of them are.
2.  $(\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{F})$  and  $(\mathcal{C}, \mathcal{F} \cap \mathcal{W})$  are both weak factorization systems.  $(\mathcal{B}, \mathcal{D})$  is a weak factorization system.
  - (a) Any morphism in  $\mathcal{A}$  can be factored as a morphism in  $\mathcal{B}$  followed by a morphism in  $\mathcal{D}$ .
  - (b) Lifts:



Two interesting model category structures on CGWH.

1. Hurewicz model structure (Strom).
  - Cofibrations:= Hurewicz cofibrations.
  - Fibrations:= maps  $E \rightarrow B$  such that for all spaces  $X$  [Photo1].
  - Weak equivalences:= homotopy equivalences.
2. Quillen model structure.
  - Cofibrations = retracts of relative cell complexes.

- (Serre) Fibrations = 
$$\begin{array}{ccc} D^n & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ D^n \times I & \longrightarrow & B \end{array}$$

- Weak equivalences:  $f : X \rightarrow Y$

**exercise (3.1.8 from Riehl).** Verify that the class of morphisms  $\mathcal{L}$  characterized by the left lifting property against a fixed class of morphisms  $\mathcal{R}$  is closed under coproducts, closed under retracts, and contains the isomorphisms.

*Solution. (Coproducts.)* **Sergey:** Coproduct of morphisms  $A_i \rightarrow B_i$  in a category  $\mathcal{C}$  is the obvious morphism  $\sqcup A_i \rightarrow \sqcup B_i$ . (Because in this construction morphisms  $A_i \rightarrow B_i$  are seen as objects of what's called the arrow category of the category  $\mathcal{C}$ )

Suppose the maps  $\ell_i : A_i \rightarrow B_i$  are in  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then their coproduct in the arrow category is the obvious map  $\coprod A_i \rightarrow \coprod B_i$ .

Explicitly, their coproduct is an arrow  $\coprod \ell_i$  and a collection of maps  $f_i : \ell_i \rightarrow \coprod \ell_i$  such that for any other object  $m : A \rightarrow B$  in the arrow category and a map  $g : \ell \rightarrow m$ , the following diagram is completed uniquely:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \ell_i & \xrightarrow{f_i} & \coprod \ell_i & \xrightarrow{\exists!} & m \\ & \searrow & \downarrow g & \nearrow & \\ & & A & \xrightarrow{m} & B \end{array} \quad \forall i$$

So we conclude that the source of  $\coprod \ell_i$  is  $\coprod A_i$  and its target  $\coprod B_i$ . Indeed, we really looking at

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_i & \xrightarrow{\ell_i} & B_i \\ f_i^1 \downarrow & & \downarrow f_i^2 \\ \coprod A_i & \xrightarrow{\coprod \ell_i} & \coprod B_i \\ \exists! \downarrow & & \downarrow \exists! \\ A & \xrightarrow{m} & B \end{array}$$

Now consider the following lifting problem with respect to a morphism  $r \in \mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \downarrow \coprod \ell_i & & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

Since  $\ell_i \in \mathcal{L}$ , we have maps

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

which in turn means we have unique maps

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

by the universal property of the coproduct  $\coprod B_i$ .

So, to check that the lower-right triangle commutes, it would be sufficient to show that the map  $B_i \rightarrow \coprod B_i$  "can be cancelled" since

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array} \quad \text{is already the same as} \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

Likeways, to make sure that the remaining triangle commutes we observe that

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array} \quad \text{is already the same as} \quad \begin{array}{ccccc} A_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod A_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \\ \mathcal{L} \ni \ell_i \downarrow & & \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow r \in \mathcal{R} \\ B_i & \longrightarrow & \coprod B_i & \longrightarrow & \bullet \end{array}$$

Why can we "cancel" the maps  $A_i \rightarrow \coprod A_i$  and  $B_i \rightarrow \coprod B_i$ ? □

**remark (Plan).** Blakers-Massey excision theorem (relies on technical lemma, proof from Tom Dieck's book)  $\implies$  Cellular approximation. Also  $\implies$  Freudenthal theorem.

**exercise.**  $X \rightarrow M_f \rightarrow Y$ . Prove  $X \rightarrow M_f$  is a cofibration.

## whitehead theorem

We introduce a large class of spaces, called CW complexes, between which a weak equivalence is necessarily a homotopy equivalence. Thus, for such spaces, the homotopy groups are, in a sense, a complete set of invariants. Moreover, we shall see that every space is weakly equivalent to a CW complex.

**definition (May).**

1. A **CW complex**  $X$  is a space  $X$  which is the union of an expanding sequence of subspaces  $X^n$  such that, inductively,  $X^0$  is a discrete set of points (called *vertices*) and  $X^{n+1}$  is the pushout obtained from  $X^n$  by attaching disks  $D^{n+1}$  along **attaching maps**  $j : S^n \rightarrow X^n$ . Thus  $X^{n+1}$  is the quotient space obtained from  $X^n \cup (J_{n+1} \times D^{n+1})$  by identifying  $(j, x)$  with  $j(x)$  for  $x \in S^n$ , where  $J_{n+1}$  is the discrete set of such attaching maps  $j$  (see ??). Each resulting map  $D^{n+1} \rightarrow X$  is called a *cell*. The subspace  $X^n$  is called the *n-skeleton* of  $X$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} S^n & \xhookrightarrow{i} & D^{n+1} \\ j \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ X^n & \longrightarrow & X^{n+1} \end{array}$$

**lemma 3 (HELP).** content...

**Theorem 4 (Whitehead, May).** If  $X$  is a CW complex and  $e : Y \rightarrow Z$  is an  $n$ -equivalence, then  $e_* : [X, Y] \rightarrow [X, Z]$  is a bijection if  $\dim X < n$  and surjection if  $\dim X = n$ .

**Theorem 5 (Whitehead, May).** An  $n$ -equivalence between CW complexes of dimension less than  $n$  is a homotopy equivalence. A weak equivalence between CW complexes is a homotopy equivalence.

**Theorem 6 (Whitehead (4.5), Hatcher).** If a map  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  between connected CW complexes induces isomorphisms  $f_* : \pi_n(X) \rightarrow \pi_n(Y)$  for all  $n$ , then  $f$  is a homotopy equivalence. In case  $f$  is the inclusion of a subcomplex  $X \hookrightarrow Y$ , the conclusion is stronger:  $X$  is a deformation retract of  $Y$ .

**exercise (Hatcher 4.1.12).** Show that an  $n$ -connected,  $n$ -dimensional CW complex is contractible.

*Solution.* Just recall that  $n$ -connectedness means that  $\pi_i(X) = 0$  for all  $i \leq n$ , which means that  $X$  is contractible by theorem 5.  $\square$

## lecture notes

14 mar

$$(X^Y)^Z \cong Z^{Y \times X}$$

$$g : X' \rightarrow X$$

$$\text{Hom}(X, Y) \mapsto \text{Hom}(X', Y)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hom}(A, B) &\cong \text{Hom}(A, B') \text{ natural in } A \implies \\ \text{Hom}(B, B) &\cong \text{Hom}(B, B') \& \text{Hom}(B', B) \cong \text{Hom}(B', B') \\ &\implies B \cong B'. \end{aligned}$$

- for (  $\Leftarrow$  ) commutativity of the hypothesis gives us commutativity of the right-most square in the diagram below. In fact, the double square diagram below is a rephrasing of the hypothesis.
- Lemma 2. To build CW complexes
- Some good concepts are pushouts, coproducts, direct limits.
- What we did? Prove the bijection between the homotopic sets given an  $n$ -equivalence.
- Defined smash.
- $\pi_n$  of loop space is the same as  $\pi_{n+1}$  of original space.
- Then we moved on to homotopic pushouts and pullback. We saw, for instance, that if in a double square diagram each of the squares is a homotopic pushout, then so is the outer square.
- We also looked at those exact sequences on cofibers, spaces of homotopy classes, cohomology and (barely) loop spaces. There was a lemma about this.
- Next time: cofiber of cofiber is homotopy equivalence, then fibers, fibrations and probably \*some name\* theorem.

18 mar

**lemma 7** (Yoneda).

$$\{\text{Natural transformations } \text{Hom}(-, X) \rightarrow F\} \cong F(X)$$

**corollary 8.**  $(\text{Hom}(-, X) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(-, Y)) \cong \text{Hom}(X, Y)$ .

**corollary 9.** The correspondence  $X \mapsto \text{Hom}(-, X)$  is fully faithful, that is, the correspondence  $\text{Hom}(X, X') \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\text{Hom}(-, X), \text{Hom}(-, X'))$  is injective and bijective. (The right hand side are natural transformations of functors.)

*Solution of exercise 1.* The latter correspondence sends isomorphisms to isomorphisms. Since we are given a natural isomorphism in the problem, we conclude  $X \cong X'$ .  $\square$

**lemma 10.** Let  $E \times_B X$  be the pullback of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & E & \\ & \downarrow & \\ X & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & B \end{array}$$

be such that  $E \rightarrow B$  is an homotopy fibration and  $f : X \rightarrow B$  is a homotopy equivalence. Let

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} E \times_B X & \rightarrow & E & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & B & & B \end{array}$$

be the pullback. Then  $E \times_B X \rightarrow E$  is a homotopy equivalence.

*Proof.* Let  $g : B \rightarrow X$  be the homotopy inverse of  $f$ .

**(Step 1)** Construct another pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} E \times_B B & \longrightarrow & X \times_B E & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B & \xrightarrow{g} & X & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array}$$

**(Step 2)** Construct  $E \rightarrow E \times_B B$ .

Consider

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} E & \xrightarrow{\text{id}} & E \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\ E \times I & \xrightarrow{f \times \text{id}} & B \times I & \longrightarrow & B? \end{array}$$

And then  $E \rightarrow E \times_B B \rightarrow E \times_B X \rightarrow E$  is homotopic to the identity.

Constructing the other homotopic inverse is the hard part.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} Z \sqcup Z & \longrightarrow & I \times Z \\ \downarrow f_1 \sqcup f_2 & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow & \searrow \text{curved} & \downarrow \\ E \times_B X & \longrightarrow & E & & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & B & & B \end{array}$$

□

**corollary 11.**  $B \xrightarrow{f} B$  is homotopy equivalence and  $E \rightarrow B$  is a fibration, in

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E \times_B B & \longrightarrow & E \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ B & \xrightarrow{f} & B \end{array}$$

$E \times_B B \rightarrow E$  is a homotopy equivalence.

**exercise.** If  $fg$  is an isomorphism and  $f$  and  $g$  have right inverses, then  $f$  and  $g$  are isomorphisms.

**lemma 12.** Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \downarrow g & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & X \cup_A B \end{array}$$

be a pushout with  $A \rightarrow X$  a cofibration. Then the canonical map from the double mapping cylinder  $M(f, g) \rightarrow X \cup_A B$  is a homotopy equivalence.

**remark.**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\ \downarrow g & & \\ X & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} A & \hookrightarrow & M_f \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & X \cup_A M_f \cong M(f, g) \end{array}$$

**definition.**

- The *homotopy pullback* of a diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & Y \\ & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times_{\text{ev}_0} Z^I \times_{\text{ev}_1} Y & \longrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

Intuitively, for any  $x \in X$  and  $y \in Y$  this object has the space of paths connecting  $x$  and  $y$ .

- The *homotopy fiber* if  $f : Y \rightarrow Z$  is the pullback of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & Y \\ & & \downarrow f \\ \text{pt} & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

$F \subset Z^I \times_Z Y \rightarrow Z$ , where  $F$  is the space of paths starting at  $x$  and ending at the same point  $f(y)$ .

**remark.** The pullback of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & Z^I \times_Z Y \\ & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$



is the motopy pullback of

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Y & \\ & \downarrow & \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

**lemma 13.** If  $X \rightarrow Z$  is a fibration then for

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & Y & \\ & \downarrow & \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

the map from the pullback to the homotopy pullback is a homotopy equivalence.

*Proof.*

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \times_Z Y & \longrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow \simeq & & \downarrow \simeq \\ X \times_{\text{ev}_0} Z^I \times_{\text{ev}_1} Y & \longrightarrow & Z^I \times_Z Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & Z \end{array}$$

□

Finally,

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{hofib } f_1 & \longrightarrow & \text{hofib } f & \longrightarrow & * \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ * & \longrightarrow & X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

and

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Z & \longrightarrow & F(f) \\ \downarrow & \nearrow & \downarrow \\ X \times I & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

$X \times_Y Y^I$

and an exact sequence

$$\Omega^2 \text{hofib} \rightarrow \Omega^2 X \rightarrow \Omega^2 Y \rightarrow \Omega \text{hofib } f \rightarrow \Omega X \rightarrow \Omega Y \rightarrow \text{hofib } f \rightarrow X \xrightarrow{f} Y$$

**lemma 14 (Exactness).**  $\forall z, [z \text{hofib } f] \rightarrow [Z, X] \rightarrow [Z, Y]$ .

and we get the exact sequence

$$\pi_0(\Omega^2 X) \rightarrow \pi_0(\Omega^2 Y) \rightarrow \pi_0(\Omega \operatorname{hofib} f) \rightarrow \pi_0(\Omega X) \rightarrow \pi_0(\Omega Y) \rightarrow \pi_0(\operatorname{hofib} f) \rightarrow \pi_0(X) \rightarrow \pi_0(Y)$$

and then

$$[S^0, \Omega^2 X] = [\Sigma S^0, \Omega X] = [\Sigma^2 S^0, X] = [S^2, X] = \pi_2(X)$$

## 21 march (Serre fibration long exact sequence)

We've been talking a lot about Hurewicz fibrations. Let's talk about Serre fibrations. Notice that H. fibration  $\implies$  S. fibration. What is the most natural example of a Serre fibration?

**proposition 15.** Let  $E$  be a fiber bundle with fiber  $F$ . Then  $f$  is a Serre fibration.

*Proof.* What does it mean to be a Serre fibration? It means that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I^n & \xrightarrow{\quad} & E \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\ I^{n+1} = I^n \times I & \longrightarrow & B \end{array}$$

So if  $\mathcal{U}$  is a covering of  $B$  such that  $f^{-1}U \cong U \times F$ . By Lebesgue lemma, there is a  $\delta > 0$  such that for all  $x \in I^{n+1}$ , the ball  $B(x, \delta)$  lies in some  $f^{-1}U$  for some  $U$ .

Then we subdivide  $I^{n+1}$  in smaller cubes of the same size with diameter  $< \delta$ . So, each the image of each cube lies in some  $U \in \mathcal{U}$ .

Then

$$\begin{array}{ccc} I^n & \xrightarrow{\quad} & F \times U \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\ I^{n+1} & \longrightarrow & U \end{array}$$

has a lift for every little square because

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X & \xrightarrow{\quad} & U \\ \downarrow & \nearrow \text{dashed} & \downarrow \\ X \times I & \longrightarrow & \text{pt} \end{array}$$

is always a fibration (**think about this**) and because pullbacks of fibrations are fibrations:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U \times F & \longrightarrow & U \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ F & \longrightarrow & \text{pt} \end{array}$$

. Then we may just add up the squares because

$$\begin{array}{c} D^n \\ \downarrow \\ D^n \times I \end{array}$$

and we're done.  $\square$

**proposition 16 (Construction of homotopy long exact sequence from relative homotopy long exact sequence).** Let  $g : E \rightarrow B$  is a Serre fibration.  $e \in E$ ,  $g(e) = b$  and  $g^{-1} = F$ . Then consider the exact sequence in homotopy of the Serre fibration and the relative homotopy exact sequence. Then there is a long exact sequence (top row):

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(F) & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(E) & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(B) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{n-1}(F) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{n-1}(E) & \longrightarrow & \cdots \\ & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \cong \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\ \cdots & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(F) & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(E) & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(E, F) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{n-1}(F) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{n-1}(E) & \longrightarrow & \cdots \end{array}$$

**example.** We have shown that  $\pi_2(\mathbb{CP}^n) \cong \mathbb{Z}$  using the Hopf fibration  $S^1 \hookrightarrow S^{2n+1} \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^n$  and the fact that  $\pi_k(S^n) = 0$  for  $k < n$ .

**Theorem 17.** Let  $X$  be a CW-complex,  $A, B \subset X$  subcomplexes,  $C = A \cap B \neq \emptyset$ , so

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \longrightarrow & A \\ \downarrow & \lrcorner & \downarrow \\ B & \longrightarrow & X \end{array}$$

is a pushout (this happens for inclusions, **check it?**).

If  $(A, C)$  is  $n$ -connected and  $(B, C)$  is  $m$ -connected, then

$$\pi_i(A, C) \rightarrow \pi_i(X, B)$$

is an isomorphism for  $i < m + n$  and surjective for  $i = m + n$ .

## 26 march (Blakers-Massey)

First I show some basic constructions from Tom Dieck (sec. 5.7). Let  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  be a map. Consider the pullback

$$\begin{array}{ccc} W(f) & \longrightarrow & Y^I \\ (q, p) \downarrow & & \downarrow (ev_0, ev_1) \\ X \times Y & \xrightarrow{f \times id} & Y \times Y \end{array}$$

where

$$W(f) = \{(x, w) \in X \times Y^I \mid f(x) = w(0)\},$$

$$q(x, w) = x, \quad p(x, w) = w(1).$$

Since  $(ev_0, ev_1)$  is a fibration, the maps  $(q, p)$ ,  $q$  and  $p$  are fibrations.

Now suppose  $f$  is a pointed map with base points  $*$ . Then  $W(f) \rightarrow W'$  is given the base point  $(*, k_*)$ .

Let  $f : A \hookrightarrow X$  be an inclusion.

**definition.** By  $(I^n, \partial I^n) \rightarrow (* \times_{ev_0} X^I \times_{ev_1} A, pt)$  is the same as a map  $I^n \times I \rightarrow X$  that satisfies:

- $I^n\{0\} \cup \partial I^n \times I \rightarrow *$ .
- $I^n \times \{1\} \rightarrow A$ .

It is fairly straightforward to show that

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \cdots & \longrightarrow & \Omega A & \longrightarrow & \Omega X & \longrightarrow & \text{hofib} \longrightarrow A \longrightarrow X \\ \pi_0(\nearrow) = & & \pi_n(A) & \longrightarrow & \pi_n(X) & \longrightarrow & \pi_{n-1}(\text{hofib}) \longrightarrow \pi_{n-1}(A) \longrightarrow \pi_{n-1}(X) \\ & & & & \searrow & \downarrow \cong & \nearrow \\ & & & & & \pi_n(X, A) & \end{array}$$

**Theorem 18 (Blakers-Massey 1).** Let

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q & \xrightarrow{g} & Y \\ f \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \longrightarrow & P \end{array}$$

be a homotopy pushout,  $g$  is  $m$  equivalence,  $f$  is  $n$ -equivalence and  $m, n \geq 0$ . Then  $Q \rightarrow X \times_P^h Y$  is  $(m + n - 1)$ -equivalence.

**Theorem 19 (Blakers-Massey 2).**  $P$  is a CW-complex,  $X, Y$  subcomplexes,  $X \cap Y = Q \neq \emptyset$  (*strict pushout*)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} Q & \hookrightarrow & Y \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ X & \hookrightarrow & X \end{array} \quad \lrcorner$$

Then  $\pi_i(Y, Q) \rightarrow \pi_i(P, X)$  is epi for  $i = m + n$  and iso for  $0 \leq i < m + n$ .

**Theorem 20 (Blakers-Massey 3).**  $P = X \cup Y$ ,  $X$  and  $Y$  are open in  $P$ ,  $X \cap Y = Q \neq \emptyset$ .

We proved the third version based on Tom Dieck's proof.

**definition.**

- A map is a *k-equivalence* if the induced map on the  $i$ th homotopy group is an isomorphism for  $i < k$  and an epimorphism for  $i = k$ .
- $K_p(W) := \{x \in W : \text{at least } p \text{ coordinates of } x \text{ are the same coordinates of the center of } W\}$

**lemma 21.** Let  $W$  be a cube in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  with  $\dim W \leq d$ . If for all faces  $W'$  of  $\partial W$ ,  $f(W') \in A \implies w' \in K_p(W')$ , then there is a homotopy  $f \simeq g \text{ rel } \partial W$  such that  $g(w) \in A \implies w \in K_p(W)$ .

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